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LETTER DATED 4 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government I am enclosing a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan on 2 April 1996 concerning the decision of Ethiopia to hold secret trials for the three Egyptians and some Ethiopians suspected of involvement in the assassination attempt against the life of the Egyptian President in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 1995.

I would be grateful if this letter and its enclosure are circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali M. O. YASSIN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

News agencies have reported that the Ethiopian authorities have begun secret trials of the three Egyptians and a number of Ethiopians accused of involvement in the attempted assassination of President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June 1995.

Since the Ethiopian authorities attempted to implicate the Sudan even before the trials of the suspects began, the Sudan wishes to request that those trials should be held in public, and that its Embassy in Addis Ababa should be permitted to attend them, particularly since Ethiopia has made the Sudan a party to the matter, laying false accusations against it. The Ethiopian authorities must also allow international news agencies, and any other parties who wish to do so, to attend the trials.

At the same time as it is pressing for the trials to be held in public, the Sudan is also asking the international community to urge Ethiopia to comply with this request, and not to accept any allegations or justifications for the secrecy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to reaffirm that Ethiopian insistence on the secrecy of the trials will not ensure the requisite credibility or transparency.